

Serial No. 09/491,721
Response to Office Action mailed on October 2, 2008

CLAIM LISTING

Claims 1-32. Cancelled.

33. (New) A laminate comprising:

an elastic polymeric film;

a first nonwoven web bonded to a first surface of said elastic polymeric film, said first nonwoven web having an extensible elongation value in a range of from about 20% to about 200% and an ultimate force to break of greater than 1500 g/in. in a transverse direction;

a second nonwoven web bonded to a second surface of said elastic polymeric film opposite said first nonwoven web, said second web having an extensible elongation value and an ultimate force to break value in a transverse direction that is substantially equal to that of the first nonwoven web;

wherein said tear resistant laminate having a combined laminate ultimate force to break of at least the combined values of said at least two nonwoven webs; and

wherein each of said first and second nonwoven webs comprise a consolidated web of fibers produced by heating a precursor web to a temperature between the melting temperature and the softening temperature of at least 10% of the fibers, drawing the web in a machine direction under tension to consolidate the web laterally in the transverse direction and then cooling but not heat setting the web.

34. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein said first and said second nonwoven webs comprise randomly deposited nonelastomeric thermoplastic fibers, at least about 10% of said fibers having approximately equal softening temperatures.

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35. (New) The laminate of claim 34, wherein from about 2% to about 50% of said thermoplastic fibers are skewed in a direction greater than about 10° from the machine direction of the respective nonwoven web.
36. (New) The laminate of claim 34, wherein said thermoplastic fibers have a mass divided by length value of at least about 1.5 denier.
36. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein said first and second nonwoven webs are formed of randomly deposited polyolefin fibers.
37. (New) The laminate of claim 36, wherein said polyolefin fibers are spun bond polypropylene fibers and said first and second webs have a basis weight of from about 14 to about 60 g/m².
38. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein said elastic polymeric film is a metallocene-based low density polyethylene film.
39. (New) The laminate of claim 38, wherein said metallocene-based low density polyethylene film has a basis weight of from about 18 g/m² to about 100 g/m².
40. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein said elastic polymeric film is a block copolymer blend.
41. (New) The laminate of claim 40, wherein said elastic polymeric film has a basis weight of from about 30 g/m² to about 100 g/m².
42. (New) The tear resistant laminate, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said elastic polymeric film has elastic elongation properties greater than the extensible elongation

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values of the first and second nonwoven webs and a set of less than 25% when stretched to 50%.

43. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein said elastic polymeric film is perforated.

44. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein said elastic polymeric film has a Dart Impact value of at least 400 g.

45. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein the first nonwoven web, the elastic film and the second nonwoven web are bonded together by a plurality of spaced apart point bonds, and wherein the total bond area comprises at least 3%.

46. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein at least one of said nonwoven webs comprise a composite structure formed of two or more layers of a nonwoven fabric bonded together.

47. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein said elastic polymeric film comprises a multilayer film.

48. (New) The laminate of claim 33, wherein the laminate has an ultimate force to break of at least 3000 g/in.

49. (New) A garment comprising the laminate of claim 33.